

Who Lives in Waitakere City

Waitakere City is young, fast growing and ethnically diverse. This chapter looks at characteristics of the City's residents including:

1. POPULATION
2. AGE AND GENDER
3. DIVERSITY AND ETHNICITY
4. MIGRATION
5. HOUSEHOLD COMPOSITION AND SIZE
6. HOUSEHOLD INCOME

- Waitakere City has been the third fastest growing city in the Auckland Region over the last 10 years and is the fifth largest city in New Zealand.
- Between 1996 and 2001 Waitakere City's population increased by 8.5% (approximately 1.6% per year
- Waitakere City is becoming more ethnically diverse with 38% of the population identifying as non-European (partly or wholly).
- 25% of the population is under the age of fifteen and 20% of the population is under the age of twenty.

...Waitakere City is becoming more ethnically diverse....

Understanding who lives in Waitakere City and trends over time can help businesses and communities adapt to meet residents' needs. For a comparison with the six largest cities in New Zealand, see the 'Quality of Life Report: The Six Big Cities 2000' available at www.bigcities.govt.nz.

KEY INDICATOR

Over the last 10 years Waitakere City's population has grown on average, 1.6% per year.

Table 1: Population growth over 5 years between each census

5 year period	% growth over 5 years
1986 – 1991	11.2%
1991-1996	13.9%
1996-2001	8.5%

Source: Statistics New Zealand

Waitakere City is generally viewed as a middle income City compared to the rest of New Zealand.

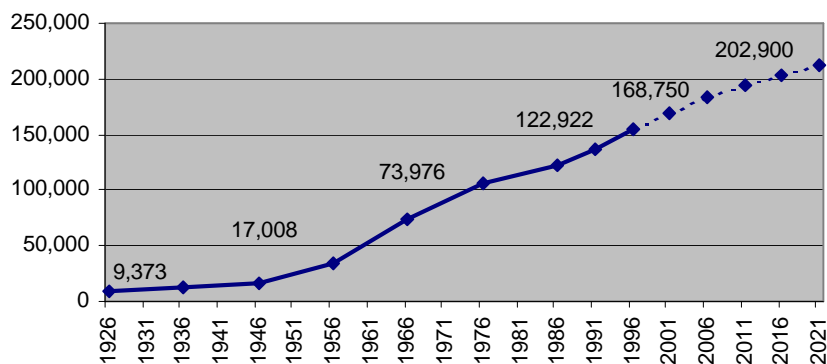
1. POPULATION

Waitakere City is the fifth largest city in New Zealand. The population of Waitakere City was **168,750** on census night March 2001 (Statistics New Zealand).

Population to date and projections to 2021 for Waitakere City

The graph below shows a steady increase in the population since the 1950s. This increase is expected to continue over the next 20 years at least. The three main drivers of population change are fertility, mortality and net migration. In Waitakere City, 50-60% of population growth is from natural increase, a further 30-35% is from international migration, and the remaining 10% is from internal migration from other parts of the country. Historically, most of the population growth in the Auckland Region has derived from natural increase (more births than deaths). Migration fluctuates to a greater degree, depending on factors such as immigration policy and the economic situation.

**Population Waitakere City 1926-2021
(Projected at 2006-2021)**



Data Source: Statistics New Zealand (projections made in 2000 based on low growth)

Updated as at 1 September 2002
Updates @ www.waitakere.govt.nz

Waitakere City is divided into four wards for electoral purposes. The Waitakere ward is mostly rural and the other wards are mostly urban.

(Detailed information about each ward is available at <http://www.Waitakere.govt.nz/AbtCit/ps/index.asp>. The following table shows the population of each ward over the last four census counts.

Table 3: Population in each ward

Ward	1986	1991	1996	2001
Massey ward	33,453	39,345	46,785	51,369
New Lynn ward	40,143	42,402	46,825	49,845
Henderson ward	33,621	34,665	37,987	40,086
Waitakere ward	16,089	20,589	24,076	27,450

Source: Statistics New Zealand

The Massey ward now has the largest population, with an increase of 4,584 people from 1996 to 2001. Waitakere ward had the highest rate of growth between 1996 and 2001. The following table shows the percentage growth for the city and each ward between each census.

“ Waitakere ward had the highest rate of growth between 1996 and 2001. ”

Table 4: Percentage of growth in each ward

Ward	% growth 1986-1991	% growth 1991-1996	% growth 1996-2001
Massey ward	17.6%	18.9%	9.7%
New Lynn ward	5.6%	10.4%	6.5%
Henderson ward	3.1%	9.6%	5.8%
Waitakere ward	30.0%	16.9%	14.2%
Total for City	11.2%	13.9%	8.5%

The top 10 areas of highest population growth in Waitakere City between 1996 and 2001 are (in descending order):

- Sturges North: 277%
- Westgate: 49%
- Tucken Point: 27%
- New Lynn North: 24%
- Faidene: 23%
- Swanson: 21%
- Royal Road West: 20%
- Te Atatu Central: 18%
- Parrs Park: 15%
- Sunnyvale: 14%

2. AGE AND GENDER

Waitakere is a young city. A quarter of its population is under the age of fifteen and a third of residents are under the age of twenty. There are a high number of children in the 0-9 year age group and adults in the 30-39 year age group. The population is ageing, as indicated by the median age increasing from 29 to 32.4 years between 1991 and 2001. The proportion of the population over the age of sixty-five increased from 7.5% in 1991 to 8.8% in 2001. (This compares to the national average of 12.1% over the age of sixty-five.)

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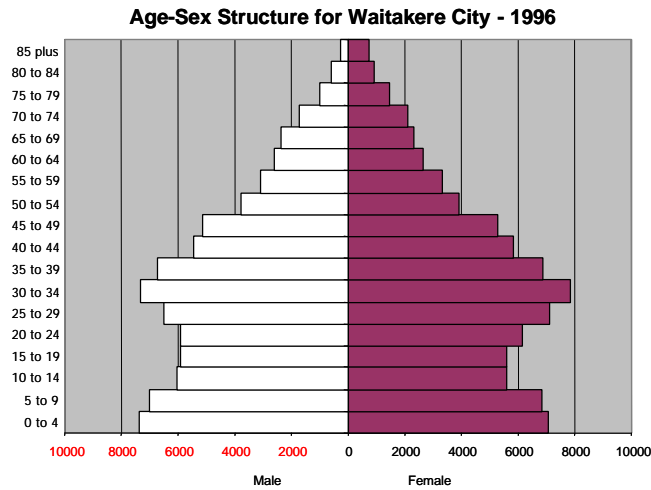
The trend towards later child bearing age and smaller families, and longer lives due to factors such as improved medical treatments mean that overall, the population is ageing. Nationally, the median age has increased from 29.6 years in 1986 to 33 years in 2001. The median age in Waitakere City was 32 years in 2001 (29 years in 1991).

The demographics for Maori vary significantly from the general population in Waitakere City. The median age of Maori people in Waitakere City was 21.1 in 2001. In 2001, 38.7% of Maori people in Waitakere City were aged under 15, and 2.1% of Maori were aged 65 and over.

By 2021, the median age of Waitakere City’s residents is likely to increase to around 36 years. This means that there will be more older people living in the City. For example:

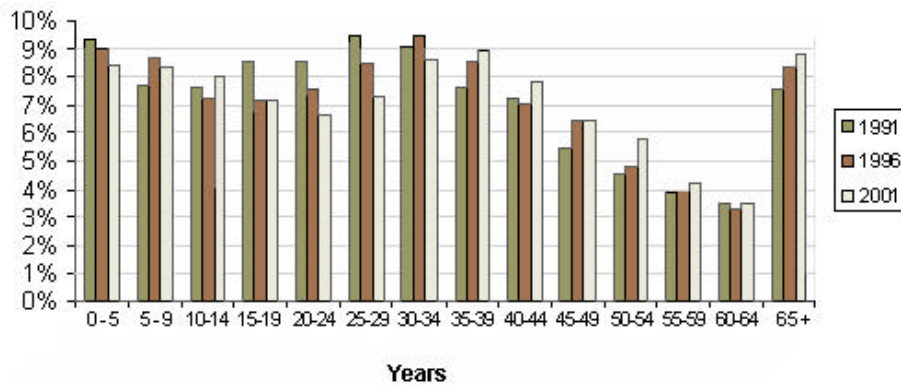
- The number of people aged 65 and over is expected to increase by up to 10,000 from 14,829 in 2001 to 24,129 in 2016, whereas the number of people under the age of 15 will increase by only 3,000 over the same time period.
- Rapid population growth is expected to occur in the 50 to 64 years age group. Numbers in this age group are expected to nearly double from 22,848 people in 2001, to 38,352 people in 2016.

The graph below shows a comparison of age groups in 1991, 1996 and 2001.



Source: Statistics New Zealand, 1998

Age Groups in Waitakere City 1991-2001



Updated as at 1 September 2002
 Updates @ www.waitakere.govt.nz

3. DIVERSITY AND ETHNICITY

“Kia ora, Hello, Salut, Ciao, Talofa lava, Guten tag, Namaste, Malo e lelei, Hullo, An-Nyoung, Fakalofa lahi atu, Hola”.

“
 The last three census
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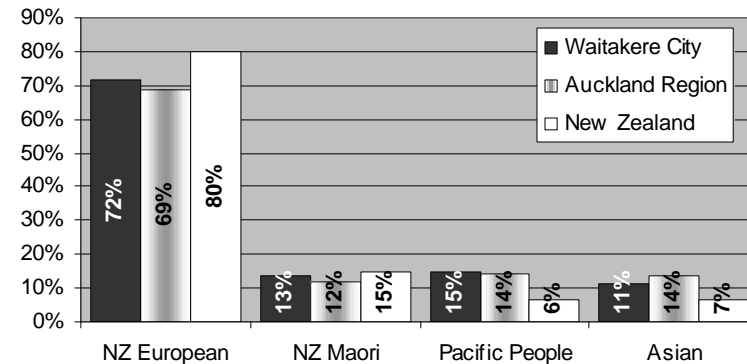
Waitakere attracts people from diverse ethnic backgrounds. The last three census surveys show that Waitakere City is becoming more ethnically diverse. Statistics NZ defines ethnicity as self – perceived, reflecting a person’s own assessment of “belonging to one or more social groups whose members:

- Share a sense of common origins;
- Claim a common and distinctive history and destiny;
- Possess one or more dimensions of collective cultural individuality; and
- Feel a sense of unique collective solidarity.”

In the 2001 Census, respondents could choose more than one ethnicity.

The census data shows the proportions of the main ‘umbrella’ ethnic groupings (see the graph below). The main ethnic groups are NZ European, Pacific Islands people, NZ Maori and Asian.

2001 Ethnic Comparison - Waitakere City, AKI Region & NZ



Within each of these broad ethnic groupings there are many smaller ethnic populations, each with its own age structure, customs, and settlement history in New Zealand. At the 2001 Census there were more than 200 separate ethnic identities recorded nationally, although fewer than 30 had over 4,000 members. Ethnic diversity brings with it a wide range of languages, cultural values, and spiritual beliefs. Increasing ethnic diversity has implications for the range of services that are needed and for the way they are provided.

NZ Europeans

The number of NZ European people living in Waitakere City increased by 4.2% from 110,250 in 1991, to 114,867 in 2001. The percentage of people identifying as NZ European has remained relatively constant at 72% in 1991 and 71% in 2001¹. The population of the prominent European ethnic groups in 2001 is set out below:

Table 5: Population of NZ European ethnic groups, 2001

NZ European Ethnic Group	Population in 2001
NZ European only	104,241
British and Irish	4,647
Dutch	1,725
Australian	954
South Slav	1,023
German	579
Polish	135
Italian	177
Greek	69
Other European	4,422
TOTAL EUROPEAN	114,867

Source: Statistics New Zealand

¹ Statistics NZ has advised that 1996 ethnicity data is not comparable because of a change in the wording of the census question.
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Maori

The Maori community in Waitakere City increased by 38.7% from 15,423 in 1991 to 21,390 in 2001. This is a national trend and is due in part to the changes in the way people identify themselves. Maori represent 13.4% of those who identified their ethnicity in the 2001 census.

Table 6: Maori population in each ward

Ward	1986	1991	1996	2001
Massey Ward	4,755	5,862	7,476	7,548
Waitakere Ward	1,218	1,812	2,433	2,877
Henderson Ward	3,891	4,002	5,151	5,733
New Lynn Ward	3,429	3,792	5,124	5,235

Source: Statistics New Zealand

For further information about Maori in Waitakere City, refer to the chapter “Maori Community”.

Pacific Islands People

The number of Pacific Islands people living in Waitakere City increased by 55.4% from 14,952 in 1991 to 23,241 in 2001. Pacific Island people represent 14.6% of those who identified their ethnicity in the 2001 census. The population of each Pacific Islands ethnic group in 2001 is set out below:

Table 7: Population of Pacific Islands Ethnic Groups, 2001

Pacific Islands Ethnic Group	Population in 2001
Samoan	13,401
Cook Island Maori	3,564
Tongan	2,895
Niuean	2,430
Fijian	831
Tokelauan	366
Other Pacific Islands Ethnic Groups	1,989
Total Pacific Islands	23,241

Source: Statistics New Zealand

Asians

The number of Asian people living in Waitakere City increased rapidly between 1991 and 2001, from 4% to 11% of the population. Most Asian people in Waitakere identify as Chinese, Indian or Korean.

“ European represent 72% ... Maori 13% ... Pacific Islands People 15% ... and Asian People 11% of the population [of Waitakere City]. ”

Table 8: Population of Asian Ethnic Groups, 2001

Asian Ethnic Group	Population in 2001
Chinese	7,314
Indian	4,638
Korean	1,848
Filipino	1,215
Japanese	354
Khmer	336
Sri Lankan	312
Vietnamese	78
Other Southeast Asian	1,548
Other Asian Ethnic Groups	633
Total Asian	17,514

Source: Statistics New Zealand

Other ethnic groups

The percentage of people of “Other” ethnic groups (that is, not European, Maori, Asian or Pacific Islands people) is 1% of the population (1,632 people).

For comparisons with other cities in the Auckland region, refer to the Quality of Life in New Zealand’s Six Largest Cities Report 200 and the Waitakere City Council’s Ethnicity Update March 1999.

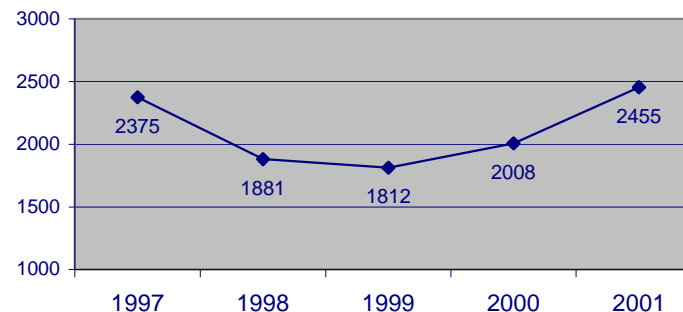
4. MIGRATION

Migration is a two – way process. Net external migration is the number of overseas arrivals into Waitakere City less the number of overseas departures.

Over the last two years, migration in Waitakere City has increased considerably after a decrease in 1998 and 1999, in line with the Auckland Region trends.

“ Waitakere City, with its lower cost housing...has become an attractive place to live for many new migrants. ”

External Migration for Waitakere City (1997-2001)



During 2001, Waitakere City became home to 2,455 migrants, an increase of 22% compared to last year. On average, one third (765) of permanent and long-term migrants are New Zealanders returning home.

Waitakere is an attractive destination for migrants from China, Fiji, United Kingdom, Korea, India and Australia. In particular, there has been a significant increase (from 2000-2001) in those arriving from Fiji, Korea and India. Almost 40% of newcomers are 24 years or under and 1/5 of migrants are children 14 years or under. Only three percent of migrants were 65 years or over.

Most new migrants settle in urban areas, particularly those with already established ethnic communities. Waitakere City, with its lower cost housing (relative to many other parts of the Auckland region), has become an attractive place to live for many new migrants.

5. HOUSEHOLD COMPOSITION AND SIZE

Household types and size are changing in Waitakere City.

HOUSEHOLD COMPOSITION

A 'household' for Census purposes is the person or people who live in a private dwelling, and a 'family' is defined as a husband and wife (in a legal or de-facto marriage) with or without children of any age living in the same dwelling – or a sole parent living with children of any age. It is acknowledged that Census based family data reflects predominantly European definitions of nuclear based family structures. Some have argued that this approach does not "capture satisfactorily the structures found in present day New Zealand" (Shirley, Koopman–Boyden, Pool and St. John. 1997. *Family Change and family policies: New Zealand.*).

“
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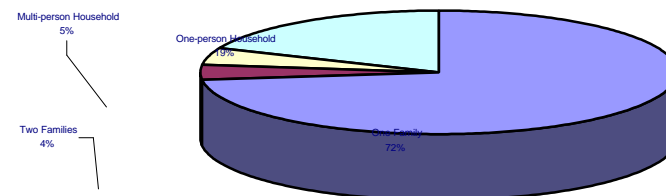
For example, a grandmother, mother and three children living together in the same house would “officially” be counted as two families. However, they may view themselves as being one family rather than two.

Households in Waitakere are changing because of changing social trends including later marriages, lower fertility rates and more people choosing to live alone. Economic pressures such as housing costs, tertiary education fees and incomes also affect household composition.

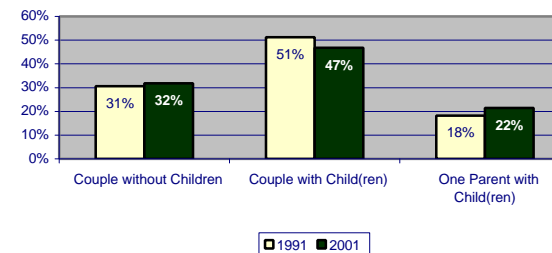
Most households in Waitakere (76%) are a families or couples. Two-parent families are the most common type of family in Waitakere City, but one-parent families are becoming more common.

Source: Statistics New Zealand, 2001

Household Composition Waitakere City 2001



Family Type Waitakere City 1991-2001



Over the next twenty years, there is likely to be an increase in the proportion of one person households and households with couples only. This will coincide with a decrease in the proportion of families with children (both one and two parent families). These changes are indicative of an ageing population.

● **AVERAGE HOUSEHOLD SIZE**

In 2001, the average number of people in a household in Waitakere City was 3.0 people. This is higher than the national average of 2.7 people.

6. HOUSEHOLD INCOME

Waitakere is a middle-income city. Household income in the city is increasing in line with Auckland Regional trends, with some areas becoming increasing affluent, such as the Waitakere Ward (rural Waitakere). However, Waitakere’s median household income is lower than the other cities in the Auckland Region. The median Waitakere household income was \$46,426 in 2001, up from \$41,605 in 1996. This is higher than the national median of \$39,588.

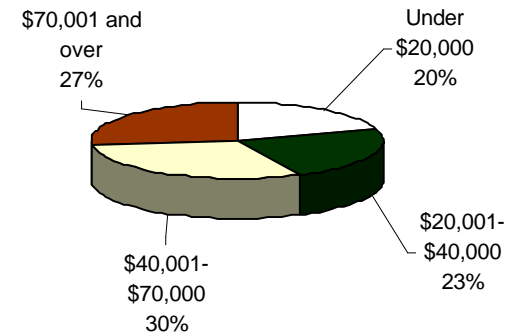
“
 The majority of households
 in Waitakere (57%) are
 middle income households ...
 low income households make
 up 22%
 ”

Just over half of households in Waitakere (53%) are middle-income households:

- 23% earn between \$20,001 and \$40,000, and
- 30% earn between \$40,001 and \$70,000.

Low-income households (earning less than \$20,000) make up 20% of Waitakere households. High-income households (earning \$70,001 and over) make up 27% of Waitakere’s households.

Household Income Waitakere City 2001



For information about personal income, refer to the Chapter ‘Work and Income’.

Table 9: Median household income (1991 and 1996)

	1996	2001
Waitakere	41,605	46,426
Auckland	42,164	51,094
Manukau	42,772	48,441
North Shore	46,997	53,355
Total New Zealand	34,825	39,588

Data Source: Statistics New Zealand